

New Graduate

Course and Curriculum Proposal from: The Women's Studies Program

TITLE. Adding four graduate courses in Women's Studies to the graduate catalog

II. CONTENT OF PROPOSALS

A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND CATALOG COPY.

1. **SUMMARY.** The Women's Studies Program proposes to add four new courses to the graduate curriculum: WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality; WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender; WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power; and WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications.

2. PROPOSED CATALOG COPY.

WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality (3)). An interdisciplinary examination of the history of sexuality and contemporary theories of sexuality and the body. Topics covered include historical aspects of sexuality; representations of sexuality; politics of sexuality; critiques of psycho-analytic approaches to sexuality; feminist engagement with biological constructions of sexuality; and queer theory. (*Alternate years*)

WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender (3) An interdisciplinary examination of the core theories about the role of gender in identity formation and social organization. Topics covered include the feminist critique of biological essentialism; gender as a continuum; the social construction of gender; gender performativity; historical changes in gender; masculinity studies; the intersection of race, class and gender; and the economics of gender. (*Alternate years*)

WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power (3) An examination of the ways language constructs sexual difference and power relations among groups. Topics include the role of language in structuring individual identity and human relations; how that process informs the nature of social institutions; and the control language exercises over human society, from the private to the public domain. (*Alternate Years*)

WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications (3) An examination of selected works in feminist thought across the disciplines. (*Alternate Years*)

B. JUSTIFICATION.

1. Identify the need addressed by the proposal and explain how the proposed action meets the need.

The Women's Studies program is proposing a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. This certificate will require students to complete 12 credit hours divided up

as follows: 2 core courses and 2 elective courses. To meet the interests of students from different disciplines we will offer four core courses, each with a different focus. The four courses that are being proposed are the core courses for the graduate certificate. They can also serve as electives for the graduate certificate. These courses will also expose students who do not enroll in the certificate to the key theories and concepts in gender, feminist or sexuality studies.

2. Discuss prerequisites/corequisites for course(s) including class-standing.

There are no prerequisites or corequisites for any of these classes. Students must have graduate standing.

3. Demonstrate that course numbering is consistent with the level of academic advancement of students for whom it is intended.

All of these courses will be offered at the graduate level. They are being offered at the 6000 level so that both master's and doctoral students will be able to pursue the graduate certificate. All of these courses are reading intensive seminars that expose students to the key theoretical debates on each topic. Between 100-150 pages of reading will be assigned per week. Students enrolled in these courses will also be expected to submit a substantial research paper, which is a minimum of 15 pages.

4. In general, how will this proposal improve the scope, quality and/or efficiency of programs and/or instruction?

As a group, these courses (and the graduate certificate they form the core of) will expand the Women's Studies programming into graduate studies. Individually, these courses will expose graduate students to the major interdisciplinary research on gender, feminism and sexuality. As such, they will complement the training students receive in other disciplines.

C. IMPACT.

1. What group(s) of students will be served by this proposal?

Graduate students enrolled in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate are the primary audience for these courses. We anticipate that the majority of the students enrolled in this certificate will be master's and doctoral students who are concurrently enrolled in other graduate programs. Preliminary emails were sent to directors of graduate programs to assess potential interest in the graduate certificate and many (including a few from the College of Health and Human Services) responded that they thought some of their students would pursue the certificate. We also anticipate that some graduate students who do not pursue the certificate will enroll in one or more of these classes. This is plausible because many graduate programs accept some credit from other departments and programs. Finally, there may be a few students who enroll solely in the graduate certificate program.

2. What effect will this proposal have on existing courses and curricula?
 - a. When and how often will added course(s) be taught?

We will schedule one core course per semester, for a two year rotation of classes. For example:

Year 1

Fall: WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power

Spring: WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality

Year 2

Fall: WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications

Spring: WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender

b. How will the content and/or frequency of offering of other courses be affected?

Neither the content nor the frequency of offering of other courses will be affected.

c. What is the anticipated enrollment in course(s) added (for credit and auditors)?

We will have a maximum enrollment of 18 students in each course. We anticipate that we will come close to this maximum enrollment. There are indications from directors of various graduate programs that there is student interest in the graduate certificate or in the classes (i.e., students who take one class but do not pursue the certificate). We also believe offering each course every other year will create a greater demand that should keep enrollments high.

d. How will enrollment in other courses be affected? How did you determine this?

We do not anticipate that enrollments in other courses will be substantially altered. The only possible effect is that graduate students will take fewer courses in their own departments. This will not, however, appreciably decrease enrollments in any single department or program. Graduate programs limit the number of courses students may take in other programs. These classes may also help departments with limited graduate faculty meet the needs of their graduate students.

e. If course(s) has been offered previously under special topics numbers, give details of experience including number of times taught and enrollment figures.

WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power has previously been offered as LBST 6000 and WMST 6050. In Fall 2006 the course had 6 students (3 in LBST and 3 in WMST), in Fall of 2004 there were 12 students (9 in LBST and 3 in WMST), in Fall 2000 there were 6 students (all were in LBST, the course was not crosslisted with WMST), and in Fall 1998 there were 6 students (5 in LBST and 1 in WMST).

WMST 6627. Feminist Theory has previously been offered as PHIL 6227. In Fall 2006 it had an enrollment of 4 students. It was not crosslisted with WMST.

Both of these classes will be crosslisted in the future, which should increase enrollments.

f. Identify other areas of catalog copy that would be affected, e.g., curriculum outlines, requirements for the degree, etc.

If the Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies is approved, these courses will be listed in the description. The course description for PHIL 6227 may need to be amended to state that it is crosslisted with WMST 6627.

D. RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL.

When added resources are not required, indicate "none". For items which require "none" explain how this determination was made.

1. Personnel

- a.** Specify requirements for new faculty, part-time teaching, student assistant and/or increased load on present faculty.

We have adequate faculty to teach each of the four proposed courses. Women's Studies will use funds from its part-time faculty allocation to buy out instructors for WMST 6601 and WMST 6602. The primary instructor for WMST 6603, Katherine Stephenson, is already released from her department to teach this course once every two years. In the event that Dr. Stephenson could not teach this course, Women's Studies would provide a course buy-out for the alternate instructor. WMST 6627 is taught by Philosophy as a regular part of its graduate offerings. Since this course will be crosslisted, Philosophy will not need a course buy-out. In the event that a Philosophy faculty member cannot teach the course at the scheduled time, Women's Studies will buy-out a faculty member from another department to teach the course. Women's Studies receives a substantial part-time allocation every semester so this should not pose a problem.

- b.** List by name qualified faculty members interested in teaching the course(s).

WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality

Ann Burlein, Religious Studies
Robin James, Philosophy
Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies
Jennifer Munroe, English
Coral Wayland, Anthropology

WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender

Judy Aulette, Sociology
Chantal Tetreault, Anthropology
Lori Van Wallendael, Psychology
Beth Gargano, English
Melissa Feinberg, History
Coral Wayland, Anthropology
Lisa Rashotte, Sociology

WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power

Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies
Elizabeth Miller, English
Chantal Tetreault, Anthropology

WMST 6672. Feminist Theory and its Applications

Robin James, Philosophy
Rosie Tong, Philosophy
Judy Aulette, Sociology
Beth Gargano, English
Melissa Feinberg, History
Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies

2. Physical Facility

None. This course is taught as a seminar so existing classrooms on campus are adequate.

3. Equipment and Supplies

Equipment needs for these classes are the standard ones associated with all classes (e.g., paper, course evaluations, etc). The costs of these supplies will be covered by the Women's Studies operating budget.

4. Computer

None. These are reading intensive seminars. As such, they require no special computing facilities. The computing labs available on campus will be adequate to meet students' needs for conducting research and writing papers.

5. Audio-Visual

None. These are reading intensive seminars that have no special audio or visual requirements.

6. Other Resources

There are no other expected costs.

7. Indicate source(s) of funding for new/additional resources required to support this proposal.

All expenses will be paid out of Women's Studies budgets or the Women's Studies part-time allocation.

E. CONSULTATION WITH THE LIBRARY AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR UNITS

1. Library Consultation

Indicate written consultation with the Library Reference Staff at the departmental level to insure that library holdings are adequate to support the proposal prior to its leaving the department. (Attach copy of *Consultation on Library Holdings*). A consultation with the library was initiated on October 20, 2006.

2. Consultation with other departments or units

Graduate Liberal Studies was consulted on 10/13/06. Graduate Liberal Studies supports the creation and future crosslisting of WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power. A letter of support is attached. The Department of Philosophy was consulted on 10/13/06. The Department of Philosophy supports the creation and future crosslisting of WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and Its Applications. A letter of support is attached.

F. INITIATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

1. Originating Unit

This proposal was discussed and unanimously approved by the Women's Studies Steering Committee on 10/20/06

2. Other Considering Units

Graduate Liberal Studies
Department of Philosophy

ATTACHMENTS

3. Attach relevant documentation of consultations with other units.

Library Consultation

Letter of support from Graduate Liberal Studies

Letter of support from Philosophy

4. For Graduate Courses attach a course syllabus.

WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality

WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender

WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power

WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications